

A VERSE OF COMFORT (Deuteronomy 31:8)

I. The Lord's preceding.

- A. Moses said, "the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee..."
- B. These people were about to enter a land that had been promised to their forefathers over 400 years ago.
 - 1. There was going to be war and bloodshed.
 - 2. They were going in without the man who had led them for the last 40 years.
 - 3. A new leader was going to take over at a very critical time in their history and he needed reassurance.
- C. God had promised that He would go before them.
 - 1. Exodus 23:23, 27-30; 33:2.
 - 2. Deuteronomy 4:37-38.
- D. God always goes before His people.
 - 1. We are to follow God.
 - 2. By that we know He is in the lead.
- E. We follow the steps of Jesus.
 - 1. He has gone before us in life.
 - 2. He has gone before us in death.
 - 3. He has led the way to the resurrection.
- F. The Lord is before us in all that we do.
- G. We will be much better off when we realize who is in control and we let Him lead us.
 - 1. Our faith will grow.
 - 2. Our level of comfort in life will grow.
- H. As we face each challenge, our God is with us.

II. The Lord's presence.

- A. Moses then told Joshua, "He will be with thee..."
- B. Not only would God go before His people, He would also be in their presence at all times.
 - 1. God was with them when they crossed the Jordan, causing its waters to stop so they could cross over.
 - 2. He was with them at Jericho, so much so that He knew when Achan kept back that which belonged to Him.
- C. God is always with us.
 - 1. Psalm 23:4.
 - 2. Hebrews 13:5.
- D. One of the names given to Jesus was "Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23).
 - 1. Do you remember what the angel said that meant?
 - 2. "God with us."
- E. God cares so much about us that He sent His Son to be physically with us so that one day we can be with Him.
- F. Another factor in our lives that shows the presence of God in our lives is prayer.

1. Why pray if God is not with us and in our presence?
2. Prayer would be useless if God was not near.
3. As Paul said, God is not far from every one of us (Acts 17:27).

III. **The Lord's promise.**

- A. Moses proceeded further by stating, "He will not fail thee nor forsake thee."
- B. God never once failed or left Israel.
 1. Every promise He made, He kept and still does.
 2. God never left Israel, Israel left God.
- C. How many times have people failed you?
 1. You probably don't have enough fingers and toes to count them on do you?
 2. It happens every day.
- D. When we learn to trust in God, our lives are enriched and blessed.
 1. We need to learn where to put our trust (Psalm 20:7).
 2. 2 Corinthians 1:9.
- E. God is there when others fail and always will be (2 Timothy 4:16-17).

IV. **The Lord's power.**

- A. Moses closed his words to Joshua by saying, "Fear not, neither be dismayed."
- B. When trust is in God, we have are given the power to not fear.
 1. Tough times were coming.
 2. War and pain as they went through Canaan.
- C. With God preceding them, His presence and His promise, there was no reason to fear what lay ahead.
- D. A lot of things happen in life that are discouraging, hurtful and scary.
 1. We serve a God that is before us and with us.
 2. We have a Savior that has been tempted in all areas in which we are tempted.
- E. We have a great power on our side.
 1. We know who wins.
 2. If we die, we win if we are faithful.
 3. If we live, we win because the Lord is right there with us.
- F. There should be great relief and consolation knowing that God has the power to see us through all things.
 1. When we put God first we are showing that we truly love God.
 2. When we have that type love, fear is cast out (1 John 4:18).

Idea from an article by Mike Riley